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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/523,562	11/09/2005	Stefano Cevenini	331.1085	1196

23280 7590 02/28/2007
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NEW YORK, NY 10018

EXAMINER

IZAGUIRRE, ISMAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3765

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/28/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/523,562

Applicant(s)

CEVENINI ET AL.

Examiner

Ismael Izaguirre

Art Unit

3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15 and 17-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 17, 20-23, 25, 27 and 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18, 19, 24, 26 and 28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The examiner is appreciative of the changes made to the specification, claim language and drawings. These have been duly noted and considered.

CLAIMS

Summary

Claim 15 is the independent claim under consideration in this Office action.

Claims 17-29 are the dependent claims under consideration in this Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 15,17,21,27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Carlsen '398.

Carlsen teaches an ironing board 1 having a pointed end (toward the left in figure 1) and a blunt end 3 (toward the right) and a single iron rest 10 at the blunt end where the iron rest is mounted on the ironing board such that it rides on rails 11 and is pushable to two positions where one is in the storage positioning under the ironing board and the other is in an extended position, as a drawer. Carlsen teaches a connector or recess 45 (figure 5, or also column 3, lines 5-6) for allowing the electrical cord to pass and which includes a handle 12 for handling the iron rest. The iron rest is

Art Unit: 3765

taught as including a rotatable support (figures 4 and 5), where a cover 25 is hinged to the board and rotatable for opening and closing and supporting the iron thereon.

Remarks

Applicant notes that the iron is rested on portion 4 during the ironing process and the drawer is used to store the iron when the iron is being stowed away. This may be so, however, figure 1 clearly shows the iron resting on the drawer therefore the drawer is definable as an iron rest. From figure 2, the iron is resting on the drawer and the drawer is again definable as an iron rest. There is no language in the claim that sets apart the structure of a drawer and an iron rest.

Referring to claim 17, Carlson teaches a connector 45 as noted above and in the previous Office action in that it connects, supports, or accommodates the power cord to the drawer.

Applicant notes that there is no power cord defined for the iron. The power cord is defined by Carlson as a power cord (see for example, column 2, lines 7-8). From the explanation of the items noted above, accordingly, Carlson meets all the limitations as presented in the claims noted above and remains applicable.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.

Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 17,20,21,23,25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlsen in view of Krause '802.

Carlsen discloses the invention substantially as claimed. See above for specific explanations of the structural details of this document. Briefly, Carlsen teaches an ironing board having an iron rest including a drawer movable like a drawer up under the ironing board for accommodating an iron to rest upon. However, Carlsen does not suggest the iron rest as including a connector for a power cord or functioning as a handle or as including movable hinged flaps for supporting the iron.

Krause teaches an ironing board having a tapered end and a blunt end and an iron rest located at the blunt end. The iron rest includes a connector 15 which includes a distal end usable as a handle when raising or folding the ironing board understructure or when applying or removing the iron from a socket 16. The iron rest includes a pair of opposing articulated (hinged) flaps 5 (figure 3, for example) which are oriented, rotated or pivoted obliquely to a plane of the board and point downwardly when contacted by the iron. Figure 4 illustrates a pressing iron being supported by the iron rest where a recess is formed between the articulated flaps allowing the passing of the iron's power cord on its way to the socket.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the iron rest of Carlsen as including an iron rest having a connector and socket, which could function as a handle and includes articulated flaps for holding the iron during use. Providing such structure would

allow the iron to be placed on the stand in a tilted manner and thus prevent water from accidentally entering the vaporization chamber when on the stand and allow the plugging in of the iron for powering such iron at the iron rest.

Remarks

Applicant notes that the support rods of Krause are not oriented obliquely to the plane of the opening and pointed down or articulated via hinges to opposite edges of the opening. The rods are articulated using hinge points at the distal ends of the rods in the areas or ends noted by character numbers 26 and 38 in figure 3 and these hinge points are thus located at opposite ends of the opening 3. Further, and using rod 5 as exemplary, defining the hinge points of the rod 5 which are closer to the symmetrical longitudinal center of the rest/ ironing board combination as pointing toward "front" directions and the portions of the rod pointing towards the slope 7 as a "back" direction, then the hinge points are considered the "front" of the flap. When an iron is placed on rod 5 and the heel of the iron rests on a corresponding slope 7 (figure 4) then the "back" or the wire rod is rotated upwardly and the "front" of the rod now points downwardly. Accordingly, the flaps are angled obliquely to the plane of the board and point downwardly.

Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlsen in view of Strewer (23 17 899.6).

Carlsen discloses the invention substantially as claimed. See above for specific explanations of the structural details of this document. Briefly, Carlsen teaches an ironing board having an iron rest including a drawer movable like a drawer up under the

Art Unit: 3765

ironing board for accommodating an iron to rest upon. Further, the cord of the iron is kept in tension by providing a weighted upright having a spring force to keep the cord out of the work area. However, Carlsen does not suggest the iron rest as including a suspended weight suspended on the iron power cord as the iron cord passes through the recess of the iron rest.

Strewer teaches an ironing board 1 having a tapered end and a blunt end and an iron rest located at the blunt end. The iron rest 3 includes a recess 4 with an angled flap for supporting an iron. The iron includes a power cord, which passes through the recess and is connected to a connector 6, which is attached to the ironing board legs. The iron cord is provided with a weight 10 which is suspended on the cord and tensions the cord such that when the user moves the iron, the cord is kept taught and out of the way.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the iron rest of Carlsen as including an iron rest having a weight for suspending from the cord of the iron. Providing such a weight would simplify the set up of the iron rest and provide better use of space by avoiding an upright swinging over the ironing board surface.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 18,19,24,26 and 28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

PERTINENT CITATIONS

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Nestor illustrates a combination ironing board and desk including a drawer slidable under the blunt end of the ironing board.

INQUIRIES

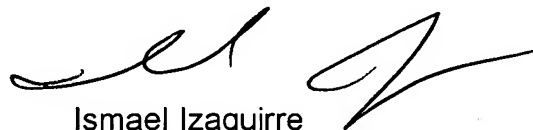
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Izaguirre whose telephone number is (571) 272-4987. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Welch can be reached on (571) 272-4996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 3765

If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ismael Izaguirre', is positioned above the printed name.

Ismael Izaguirre
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3765

II
2/23/07